'Mr. Average American' to star on television Friday

by JERRY THOMAS

Richard Johnson, Rolling Meadows' 'Mr. Average American," is going to star in another television special, but this time ABC wants his neighbors in the act.

Johnson has been a TV star ever since the National Public Affairs Center decided four years ago that he represented the average American.

As a pre-election special, ABC television plans to interview Mr. Average American, his average American family and his average American neighbors in the Precinct 64 of Palatine township. The report will be broadcast Friday on Channel 7.

Ridhard Johnson

WHILE ABC crews film interviews with Johnson and his family today and Sunday a group of Harper College students will be polling residents of Precinct 64.

Some of them also may be part of the show, although the special is mainly about the Johnson family.

Molly Waite, assistant professor of political science at Harper College, and 30 of her students will conduct the door-to-door poll of the precinct.

"We will be asking people who they voted for in 1972, if they plan to vote this time and who they prefer as a presidential candidate at this time," she said.

AN ABC spokesman said the survey information is designed to determine the residents' political leanings but is not expected to be used on election night to predict a winner.

Rolling Meadows residents are used to the fussing of television and other media people courting them during election years.

In 1972 ABC used Rolling Meadows Precinct 13 as one of its key precincts in the state to help predict the outcome of voting throughout Illinois.

The results of this weekend's poll in the Precinct 64 are expected to be announced during the Oct. 29 show.

The precinct boundaries are Central Road to the north, Old Wilke Road to the east, Birch Lane to the south and Linden Avenue to the west.